

Food Donation Programs

Fruits and vegetables, non-perishable, unspoiled food can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters. Donations are accepted from food processors, supermarkets, wholesalers, farmers, food brokers, and community food drives. Prepared foods are typically collected from restaurants, caterers, corporate dining rooms, for prompt distribution to hungry people in their communities. [AB 152](#) provides a 10% tax credit for California growers donating fruits and vegetables to food banks.

[Food banks in California](#) are community-based organizations that collect food and save it in warehouses. The food bank then distributes the food to hungry families and individuals through a variety of emergency food assistance agencies, such as soup kitchens, youth or senior centers, shelters and pantries. Most food banks tend to collect less perishable foods such as canned goods because they can be stored for a longer time.

An example of a food bank is the Yolo County Food Bank which collects donations from local growers' and grocers. Area ranchers donate fresh eggs, fruits and nuts. Food drives help yield canned goods. The warehouse is staffed with eight full-time and part-time employees and over 300 volunteers. Three million pounds of food is received annually and comes in the form of fresh, frozen and shelf-stable meats, dairy, bread and grains, canned goods, baby food and even pet food.

Food pantries collect and redistribute food to those in need. Local programs work closely with food banks from which they receive donations, and frequently offer free pick-up and containers to donors.

- **Food pantry in Crescent City, Del Norte County.**

[Daily Bread Ministries](#) in Crescent City provides meals for hungry and homeless people.

- **Food pantry in Stockton, San Joaquin County.** The [food pantry](#) in Stockton provides education for families teaching about nutrition and family meals and serves Stockton and San Joaquin families and seniors.

Food rescue programs accept perishable and prepared food and distribute it to charities that serve hungry people such as soup kitchens, youth or senior centers, shelters and pantries. Typically, perishable food is rescued and delivered quickly, on a same day basis.

- **Food rescue in San Francisco, San Francisco County.**
[Food Runners](#) in San Francisco, pick up food donations and deliver to neighborhood programs. This organization focuses on fresh, perishable, nutritious foods.
- **Food rescue in San Diego, San Diego County.**
[San Diego Rescue Mission](#), a collaborative effort of local organizations, with refrigerated trucks to pick up perishable food. Over 100 grocery stores, restaurants, caterers, universities, hotels and hospitals contribute to this effort. Contributors include Qualcomm Stadium and the San Diego Convention Center.
- **Food rescue in Marin County.**
[Extrafood](#) provides a fresh food pick-up service and matches with organizations in need, serving most vulnerable residents.
- **Food rescue in San Diego, San Diego County.**
[Phoenix Foods](#) USA works directly with local farmers and produce wholesale companies, collect fruits and vegetables and turn it into nutritious meals and products.
- **Food rescue in Signal Hill, Los Angeles County.** [Food Finders](#) in Signal Hill, near Long Beach. This multi-regional food rescue operation helps provide meals to more than 210 agencies and shelters throughout Southern California. With more than 300 volunteers, this organization has rescued more than 108 million pounds of food to date, in addition to referring thousands of families to local shelters and agencies where meals are provided.